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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 18, Number 3

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## Rescheduled: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who earlier this fall had to postpone the University of Maine School of Law's Coffin Lecture due to surgery, has rescheduled the lecture for 7 p.m., Monday, November 22, at the State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland.

The lecture, "In Pursuit of the Public Good: Lawyers Who Care," is free and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Law at USM, 780-4344.

The annual Coffin Lecture honors Judge Frank M. Coffin, senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and a longtime supporter of the School of Law. The lecture series, now in its eighth year, has featured such speakers as U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and historian and author Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Only the second woman to serve as a Supreme Court justice, Ginsburg was nominated to the court by

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg will give the rescheduled Coffin Lecture, November 22.

## Business School Wins Accreditation and Kudos

There are about 2,000 institutions in the United States offering degree programs in business but only 355, or 17.8 percent, have achieved AACSB accreditation. John Burt received the news on November 9 that the USM School of Business has joined that select group, marking the end of an accreditation process that began in January of 1995.

Established in 1916, the AACSB's founding members include Harvard and Yale Universities. The not-for-profit body, which is based in St. Louis, promotes excellence in business education through a 60-year-old accreditation process considered one of the most rigorous in academia.

AACSB accreditation is for a 10-year period and requires schools to meet a wide range of standards, spelled out in a 52-page document, relating to curriculum, faculty resources, admissions, degree requirements, library and computer facilities, financial resources, and intellectual resources. Though USM is awaiting the full, written report, reviewers have said they were especially impressed with the degree of community involvement in the school, the faculty's availability for student counseling, and the outreach programs that provide courses and research services throughout the state.

"This is, quite simply, a big win for our students, the campus community and the larger community," said Burt, who has overseen the accreditation process since taking over as dean in 1995. "We are in select company." Schools of business that were awarded accreditation or reaccreditation earlier this year included Fordham University, Ohio State University, Hofstra and George Washington University.

Maine Commissioner of Labor Valerie Landry, speaking before a

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Libby Cohen, lead author of the grant.  
*Barrett photo*

## Helping Teachers Help Students with Disabilities:

USM will bring other institutions up to speed on assistive technologies

A team based at the University of Southern Maine has received a \$1.2 million federal grant to ensure that the nation's students with disabilities gain access to specialized software, the World Wide Web, and other assistive technologies that will help them succeed in school.

The need for this technology and for teachers who know how to use it is expected to increase dramatically. Recent U.S. Department of Education figures show that more than 95 percent of students with disabilities, ages 6-21, are attending schools with their nondisabled peers. Federal law requires that students with disabilities be provided with assistive technology. Future classroom teachers must know how to use a range of modern learning tools to help all students meet high standards.

Though "assistive technologies" are

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Charles Colgan, professor of public policy and management in USM's Muskie School, is the lead researcher in the Maine Workforce Profile Project, a collaborative project of the USM Center for Business & Economic Research (CBER), the USM-based Maine Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), the Maine Department of Labor, and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. The 18-month study is assessing Maine's workforce at a greater level of detail than ever before. It is expected to be a significant factor in attracting new businesses and in identifying education needs. USM business and Muskie School students are working on the project. Colgan, Maine Commissioner of Labor Valerie Landry and Charles Davis of CBER and SBDC announced the project at a meeting of the USM Corporate Partners, a business and university support group of some 140 members. Pictured are Colgan, right, and Corporate Partners Vice Chair Paul Schumann, a vice president at Geiger of Lewiston. *Caswell photo*

## Ginsburg

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President Bill Clinton in June, 1993, and took office later that year. She served on the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and was a professor at Columbia University School of Law and at Rutgers University.

Ginsburg was admitted to the New York Bar in 1959 after obtaining her J.D. from Columbia Law School. For the next two years, she served as a clerk to the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

In 1971, Ginsburg was instrumental in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She also served as the ACLU's general counsel, and litigated a series of cases against gender-based discrimination. Ginsburg has written extensively in the areas of civil procedure, constitutional law, and comparative law.

## Grant

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available, there's little training for classroom teachers on their use in K-12 classrooms. The USM team will improve students' access to the equipment by preparing and delivering courses that can be incorporated into teacher education programs throughout the country.

The Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology (PTTT) Program was established in the U.S. Department of Education. Projects have been funded at different levels designated as catalyst, capacity building, and implementation grants, with the highest level funding going to catalyst institutions. Of the 35 institutions to receive catalyst grants, USM is the only one north of Baltimore. Other funded institutions include Mississippi State, Ohio State, Vanderbilt, and the University of Virginia.

More important, USM is the only institution nationwide to receive a grant to train teacher educators so that students with disabilities have access to electronic environments. As a result of the grant, persons with disabilities will be helped by use of such aids as computers with voice synthesizers, touch screens, expanded keyboards and other "assistive technologies."

"This project will build the national capacity of educators to understand, use, and apply assistive technology and specialized software," said Libby Cohen, USM professor of special education and lead author of the grant. "Our goal is to design the policies, online courses and other forms of technical assistance that will give our future teachers the tools they need to teach students with disabilities in regular classrooms."

To accomplish the grant initiatives, Cohen formed Project GENASYS, a consortium of schools and commercial software vendors that will oversee the design and delivery of courses and other training activities. By working with other PTTT Program grant institutions and other existing professional and governmental networks in education, the USM catalyst project will promote and "institutionalize the use of specialized software and assistive technologies by teacher educators, future teachers, and students with disabilities," Cohen said.

The GENASYS consortium, which is based at USM, includes USM's Maine Educational Center for Assistive Technology and Software (MECATS), the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media, the University of Maine System Network

for Education and Technology Services (UNET), the University of Maine at Farmington, Project EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) at the University of Rochester, the Center for Applied Special Technology in Peabody, MA, and RMC Research-Denver. Software developers and vendors are also contributing to the project.

In addition to the \$1.2 million, USM received a \$200,000 supplemental grant to advise the PTTT Program and other institutions with grants from the PTTT Program to make their web sites accessible and to help the U.S. Department of Education make their web site accessible.

Cohen's work with assistive technologies began 10 years ago with establishment of the Maine Educational Center for Assistive Technology and Software. The center provides workshops so that teachers, parents and students of all ages and abilities can review specialized software and other technology devices.

## A Tuscan Holiday Celebration

A winter holiday in Tuscany is the theme for this year's annual Music Department gala event, to be held 6:30 -10 p.m. on Friday, December 3, at the Brooks Student Center on the Gorham campus.

"Stagione di Luce: Season of Light," will feature Tuscan-style food and Italian music performed by USM students. The evening is sponsored by Portland Volvo.

Musical entertainment includes brass quartet, flute choir, and small jazz combo during dinner in the North Dining Room, transformed into a Tuscan villa, and a half-hour concert featuring the USM Wind Ensemble, the USM Chamber Singers, and soloists, soprano Katie Ham and baritone Jason Plourde.

A shuttle bus is available from the Portland campus to Gorham.

The evening also includes the drawing of the 15 winners in the luxury raffle, with total prizes worth more than \$17,000 and a grand prize of a free vacation in a villa in Tuscany. All proceeds go toward music scholarships.

Tickets to the evening event are \$60. per person; or \$100 to join the Millennium Host Committee. The 200 raffle tickets will be sold for \$100 per ticket. For tickets and information, call 780-5003. Deadline for reservations is Monday, November 29, 1999.

## Conferences, Workshops Develop Expertise

We like to recognize the work of faculty and staff in the planning and hosting of conferences, workshops and symposia. These events require a commitment of time and energy, but contribute to professional development and reflect well on the institution. Below is a list of such events held in recent months.

- The Center for Teaching hosted a symposium on "Students, Scholarship, and Service," to assess current service learning projects sponsored by campuses in Maine. The symposium featured 18 faculty presenters from seven different campuses in Maine leading discussion with 75 other participants, including Maine university students, on best ideas for service learning programs. The symposium was held Friday, October 22 in Luther Bonney Auditorium.

- The College of Education and Human Development hosted a day-long conference for Maine teachers on "Literacy Education for the Future," which featured noted literacy educator, researcher and author Richard Allington giving the keynote address. In addition, five Maine school districts --Gorham, Yarmouth, SAD 48, SAD 52, and Mapleton school districts-- shared their approaches in providing successful reading programs that support struggling readers. Schools throughout the state sent participants to the conference; in all 225 people attended. The conference was held Thursday, October 14 at the Augusta Civic Center, and was sponsored by the Literacy Education Program and the Professional Development Center.

- USM's Russell Scholars Program worked with students at Gorham Village School in a cross-cultural collaboration in the arts with students from the University of Hawaii and a local school in Hawaii. The artwork created by the two groups was on exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art during October as "Celebrations: Windows Into Culture." It also was exhibited at the Bishop Museum of Honolulu.

- Lewiston-Auburn College held a Faculty Summer Workshop on July 21 on "Teaching About Diversity/ Teaching Through Diversity," organized by Roxie Black Hamlin, director of occupational therapy; Jan Hitchcock, associate professor of social and behavioral sciences; Winnie Brown-Glaude; and Rose Cleary. Over 40 full and part-time faculty attended.

- The Provost's University-Wide Committee on Writing held a two-week summer seminar on the theory and practice of writing, organized by Nancy Gish, professor of English, which was held June 7-18 in USM's Stone House in Freeport. Topics considered were grammar, syntax, style, matching communication styles to goals. There were also workshops on the biological basis for language structure, taught by Wayne Cowart, professor of linguistics; working with students on writing in the sciences, taught by Henry Tracy, assistant professor of chemistry, and Paul Nakroshis, assistant professor of physics; sequencing, by Lisa Walker of the English Department, and writing-intensive courses, by Barbara Hope of Media Studies.

- The Art Department collaborated with the Maine Humanities Council on a one-day conference in May on "Confronting the Contemporary: Understanding and Teaching Late 20th Century Art." The day was led by Donna Cassidy, associate professor of art. Other USM art faculty to participate included Michael Shaugnessy, sculptor; Kim Grant, art historian; Trudy Wilson, art educator; and Carolyn Eyler, gallery director. It was held on the Gorham campus.

- Charlotte Rosenthal, associate professor of Russian, organized a one-day conference, "Russian Day" at USM on October 3, 1998, which brought together about 40 students, including foreign exchange students, and faculty from Colby, Bates, Bowdoin, and USM to celebrate the annual "Russian Day." The program featured a Russian feature film, "The Brother," and a talk by Rosalind Marsh of the University of Bath, England on the current status of politics and literature in Russia. Other USM professors in attendance were Oliver Woshinsky and Jim Roberts from the Political Science Department and Christine Holden from History. More recently, Rosenthal organized a one-day workshop last May on the teaching of Russian to children, with presenter Julie Hoffmann of the Penobscot School.



Due to popular demand, pianist Laura Kargul will repeat the program from her sold-out Faculty Concert performance of November 19, sponsored by Filene's, in a second performance. The repeat performance will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, December 10 in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham and will include works by the great 19th century composers Franz Schubert, Clara Wieck, Robert Schumann, and Franz Liszt. Tickets are \$9 for the general public; \$7 for seniors; and \$5 for students. Call the Music Box Office for reservations at 780-5555. Kargul's appearance on the Maine Public Radio program "Alive at 11" with Dave Bunker will air at 11 a.m. Monday, November 29. *Snell photo*

## Business

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recent meeting of the USM Corporate Partners, termed the accreditation, "a landmark development," in that it affirms the school's commitment to providing a high quality education that prepares students for today's complex business environment.

"The fact that AACSB is recognized as a premier accrediting agency positions our School of Business as a player on the national scene and brings greater recognition for the rigor and quality of our programs," said President Richard Pattenau. "This enhances our ability to attract students, faculty and institutional support. I want to thank everyone in the School of Business for their years of hard work in achieving this honor."

In addition to its accreditation function, AACSB, which is known as The International Association for Management Education, offers development programs for faculty, conducts research and survey projects, and produces a variety of special reports on trends and issues within management education.



## What We're Doing

**ROXIE BLACK HAMLIN**, director and associate professor of occupational therapy, was appointed to an ad hoc committee on multiculturalism and diversity to the executive board of the American OT Association.

**ROBERT S. CASWELL**, executive director of media and community relations, received the President's Award from the Maine Public Relations Council, one of two top awards given to public relations professionals in Maine. In 1990, Caswell received the other top MPRC award, the Bernays award.

**JOEL W. EASTMAN**, professor of history, was one of eleven authors who contributed to "Bold Vision: The Development of the Parks of Portland, Maine," the first comprehensive historic and design record of park development in an urban community in Maine, published for Greater Portland Landmarks. Eastman contributed two chapters, an historic overview of the city and a history of recreation and sports.

**JACK FARRAR**, assistant director of advising and career services emeritus, has been cited by Governor King as one of Maine's top 100 volunteers for 1999. The Governor's Service Award cited Farrar for his work on behalf of a number of Gorham community organizations.

**ROY A. GALLANT**, director of the Southworth Planetarium, has had four books published by Marshall Cavendish, New York, as part of a 16-book history of science series. The first four books are "Earth's Place in Space," "Our Human Ancestors," "Dance of the Continents," and "The Ever Changing Atom." Gallant delivered a paper titled, "Siberia's Popigai Impact Crater," before the Great Lakes Planetarium Association on October 22 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Gallant's paper described his eighth in a series of ongoing expeditions to Siberian meteorite impact sites.

**ZIP KELLOGG**, reference librarian, and **MICHAEL MCDERMOTT**, electronic research and information services librarian, spoke at the annual meeting of the North American Health Sciences Librarians' Conference in October in Portland, on evaluating the results of Internet searches. Kellogg also participated in a panel discussion of Internet issues at the annual meeting of the Maine Press Association held in September at Sugarloaf Mountain. In addition, Kellogg was the keynotes speaker at a conference sponsored by "Maine Rivers," a new organization focusing on a variety of issues associated

with rivers in Maine. He also spoke to the first and second graders at the Breakwater School in Portland about canoeing.

**JOHN LABRIE**, director of Summer/Winter Session and International Programming, was recently elected as nominations chair for the Association of Continuing Higher Education's Region I. He was also elected to the post of vice president for the Northeast Region of the North American Association of Summer Sessions.

**MICHAEL B. LANG**, professor of law, served as editor for the Tax Lawyer's 1999 Annual Report for the American Bar Association Section of Taxation. The report includes important developments in all areas of taxation during 1998. In May, Lang led a workshop for authors of the 2000 Annual Report at the Section of Taxation's 1999 spring meeting in Washington. Lang is the 1999-2000 chair of USM's Faculty Senate and an ex-officio member of USM's Board of Visitors.

**MARJORIE THOMAS LAWSON**, assistant professor of nursing, delivered a paper, "Role of Nurse Practitioners in the Delivery of Genetic Services: Evaluation of a Practice-Based Curriculum for Nurse Educators," as part of the 7th International Nurse Practitioner Conference held in Cardiff, Wales, U.K., last August. She presented a second paper, "A Practice-Based Genetics Curriculum for Nurse Educators: Evaluation of the Education and Training Program and Curriculum Field-Testing" at the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) held in San Francisco in September. This past summer she also was elected to the board of directors of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association and is Co-Chair of the Program and Education Committee.

**ERLENE LEWRY**, Administrative Assistant I, Gorham Student Billing, was recently presented a plaque by representatives from the Maine State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation honoring her for the outstanding customer service she provides for USM students.

**LOIS R. LUPICA**, associate professor of law, had her article "Asset Securitization: The Unsecured Creditor's Perspective," that was published in the Texas Law Review, cited by University of Chicago Professor Randal Picker in testimony before the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts. Picker was testifying on behalf of the National Bankruptcy Conference in opposition to a proposed revision to the definition of "estate" in the Bankruptcy Code.

**LEIGH G. MUNDHENK**, co-director of the Center for Continuing Education, presented a workshop at the Maine Development Foundation Leadership Summit in Bethel in October, titled, "Facilitative Leadership."

**IRWIN NOVAK**, associate professor of geology, presented his paper titled, "Sealevel Change and Paleogeography in the Vicinity of Lesvos Island, Greece," in the poster session of the national meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Denver, Colorado.

**ALISON RIESER**, director of the Marine Law Institute, had her article, "Prescriptions for the Commons: Environmental Scholarship and the Fishing Quotas Debate," published in Volume 23 of the Harvard Environmental Law Review.

**FRANCIS SCHWANAUER**, professor of philosophy, presented his paper, "The Keeper of Schroedinger's Cats" at the Northern New England Philosophical Association's annual conference at St. Anselm College in Bedford, New Hampshire, October 22-23.

**LEONARD SHEDLETSKY**, professor of communication, has been named a seminar co-leader on the topic of "Intrapersonal Communication" at the Seminar Series at the National Communication Association's 1999 convention, to be held in Chicago this November.

**KIM TURNER**, assistant director of athletics, was a featured speaker at the Freeport Middle and High School's Career and Opportunity Day. Kim spoke on women in sports.

**THOMAS M. WARD**, professor of law, spoke to the Intellectual Property Financing Subsection of the American Bar Association (ABA) at the Association's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, on August 10. His topic was the draft of the Federal Intellectual Property Security Act, prepared by the American Bar Association's Task Force on Security Interests in Intellectual Property. In July, the Maine Secretary of State's Office named Ward to the Review Committee for Revised Article Nine. For the sixth consecutive year, Ward taught Commercial Law of Intellectual Property in the Intellectual Property Summer Institute at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire. Professor Ward's book titled, "Intellectual Property In Commerce," is scheduled for publication by West Group later this fall.



### Currents

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